

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 03591 121224Z

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AGR-05 AID-05 EB-07 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12

NEA-09 COME-00 ISO-00 TRSE-00 SP-02 L-02 H-02 NSC-05

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SUBJECT: 65TH FAO COUNCIL - DISCUSSION OF CONSULTATIVE GROUP
ON FOOD PRODUCTION AND INVESTMENT (CGFPI)

1. WITH EXCEPTION LAST FEW MINUTES, ALL DAY TUESDAY CONFINED TO DISCUSSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR CGFPI. TO HIS CREDIT DG BOERMA MADE VALIANT, BUT UNSUCCESSFUL, EFFORT GAIN QUICK COUNCIL ACCEPTANCE OF STEPS TAKEN TO DATE, INCLUDING NECESSITY FOR COUNCIL ELECT TEN DEVELOPING COUNTRY MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE IN CGFPI. TWENTY-SEVEN MEMBERS (SEVERAL SPEAKING MORE THAN ONCE) PARTICIPATED IN DEBATE ALONG WITH TWO OBSERVER DELEGATIONS. WITH EXCEPTION US, ALMOST ALL DELEGATIONS (INCLUDING SOME DEVELOPED COUNTRIES) WERE CRITICAL IN VARYING DEGREES OF WAY IN WHICH ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR BRINGING CGFPO INTO BEING. CHIEF COMPLAINTS WERE (A) FAILURE CONSULT GOVERNMENTS ON APPOINTMENT CHAIRMAN OF CONSULTATIVE GROUP E.M. MARTIN; (B) FAILURE DISCUSS COMPONENTS OF CONSULTATIVE GROUP WITH GOVERNMENTS; AND (C) FAILURE SEEK GOVERNMENTAL VIEWS ON "PROS-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 ROME 03591 121224Z

PECTUS" WHICH WAS CIRCULATED AS PART OF DOCUMENTATION FOR

COUNCIL DELIBERATION AND THUS WAS FOR THE FIRST TIME BEING PUBLICLY REVIEWED. (TO NO AVAIL DG MADE CLEAR "PROSPECTUS" WAS SOLELY GUIDELINE FOR CONSULTATIONS, NOTHING MORE.)

2. DEBATE WAS COMPLETELY DISJOINTED WITH MANY LDC MEMBERS RAISING FEARS ABOUT DEVELOPED COUNTRY AND US INTENT DOMINATE CGFPI. MANY MEMBERS EXPRESSED COMPLETE RESPECT FOR US CHAIRMAN OF CGFPI. BUT WERE CONCERNED APPOINTMENT AND OTHER DECISIONS MADE WITHOUT CONSULTATION GOVERNMENTS. AS RESULT, SEVERAL DELEGATIONS (PAKISTAN AND OBSERVER DELEGATIONS OF ALGERIA AND SENEGAL) EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS DELAY SELECTION LDC PARTICIPANTS UNTIL FAO JUNE COUNCIL. IN INTERIM, SEVERAL REPRESENTATIONAL SCHEMES PROPOSED IN ORDER HAVE LDC PARTICIPATION IN INITIAL SESSION CGFPI NOW SCHEDULED FOR MAY OF THIS YEAR.

3. ALL DELEGATIONS, HOWEVER, CLEARLY EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR GROUP AND WERE OF VIEW ITS ACTIVITIES SHOULD NOT DUPLICATE WORK OF FAO OR OTHER AGENCIES. IT WAS CLEAR COUNCIL EXPECTED CGFPI KEEP IT FULLY INFORMED AND BE WILLING ALSO TO RECEIVE SUGGESTIONS FROM FAO COUNCIL. DISCUSSION ALSO PRODUCED SUPPORT FOR DG PROPOSAL THAT FAO REGULAR BUDGET SHOULD CONTRIBUTE \$136,000 IN 1975 AND \$172,000 IN 1976 TOWARDS FULL COSTS OF CGFPI (FAO'S SHARE BEING 1/3 OF TOTAL COSTS, REMAINDER BEING MET BY UNDP AND IBRD.)

4. IN GENERAL MOST MEMBERS SEEMED INCLINED REMIND UN AND OTHERS THAT FAO HAS OWN ROLE TO PLAY IN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. IN THIS RESPECT THEY WERE INDIRECTLY CRITICAL OF DG FOR NOT PROTECTING FAO INTERESTS. BOERMA WISELY TOOK ABUSE DIRECTED AT HIM AND ORGANIZATION QUIETLY AND ASKED REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE DR. MENSAH (DAHOMY), WHO IS EXPECTED BE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF CGFPI SECRETARIAT, TO REPLY TO MOST QUESTIONS. LATTER DID FINE JOB OUTLINING HOW EVENTS HAD TRANSPIRED AND DG THEN FOLLOWED WITH EXPLANATION THAT ALL GOVERNMENTS WOULD HAVE OPPORTUNITY AFFECT WORK OF GROUP. IF LDC'S FELT UNDER-REPRESENTED THEY SHOULD REALIZE SOME "NEW DONORS" HOPEFULLY WOULD BE FROM LDCS AND, MOREOVER, REPRESENTATIVES OF REGIONAL BANKS ALSO LIKELY BE PERSONS FROM LESSER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

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PAGE 03 ROME 03591 121224Z

5. DEBATE THIS ITEM WAS PLANNED BY INDEPENDENT CHAIRMAN FOR TWO DAYS AND THUS WILL CONTINUE THURSDAY. AS OF NOW WE EXPECT FAVORABLE OUTCOME BUT MUST RECOGNIZE THAT EVEN SOME FRIENDS (AUSTRALIA, UK, FRANCE) FEEL THERE HAS BEEN SOME LACK OF GOVERNMENTAL PARTICIPATION TO DATE IN PLANNING FOR CGFPI. STRONGLY EXPRESSED BY DCS AND LDCS ALIKE WAS FEAR THAT GROUP WOULD DUPLICATE OR FRUSTRATE TECHNICAL ROLE OF FAO AND OTHER AGENCIES. BOERMA MADE ARGUMENTS TO CONTRARY BUT IT IS CERTAIN FEARS

STILL EXIST IN MAJORITY COUNCIL MEMBERS WHO SPOKE.

6. DEBATE ON ITEM, BY CONSENSUS, WAS REGARDED AS PRELIMINARY. CONCLUSIONS WILL COME THURSDAY. INCLINED BELIEVE STEAM HAS BENN LET OFF AND WE ARE PRESSING FOR DELEGATES ACCEPT WHAT IS IN THEIR BEST INTERESTS. SECRETARIAT HELPING IN THIS REGARD AND ALL MEMBERS SPEAKING HAVE EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF GROUP.

7. OF FUTURE CONCERN IS SPILL-OFF WHICH THIS MATTER MAY HAVE ON DISCUSSIONS RE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL AND FACT GOVERNMENTS WERE CONSULTED ONLY AT LATE STAGES IN NEW YORK ON ARRANGEMENTS THEREFORE. DELEGATION WORKING TO MINIMIZE EFFECT THIS FEELING MAY HAVE ON DEBATE. IN MEANTIME, DISCUSSION ON WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE EFFECT ON FAO IN 1975 AND OUTLINE PROGRAM OF WORK AND BUDGET FOR 1976-77 HAS BEEN DELAYED AND THIS MAY RESULT IN INADEQUATE DISCUSSIONS THESE ITEMS. VOLPE

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